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## AGREEMENT BETWEEN

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE OF THE  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

AND

[Stranding Network Agency]

## ARTICLE I

### Authority

1. This Letter of Agreement (LOA) is entered into between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service, (hereinafter NOAA/NMFS) and [Stranding Network Agency] [hereinafter (Agency acronym)], under the authority of Sections 109(h), 112(c) and 403 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (hereinafter the MMPA). This LOA supersedes all pre-existing LOA(s).
2. NOAA/NMFS has been delegated authority to administer the MMPA. Under the MMPA, NOAA/NMFS is responsible for mammals of the Order Cetacea and the Order Pinnipedia other than walruses (hereinafter marine mammals).
3. To assist in the implementation and administration of the MMPA, the [Region] Region Marine Mammal Stranding Network has been established to deal with stranded marine mammals within the [Region] Region of the United States. The [Region] Region consists of the following states: (*List states*). [The geographic response area contains the following: (*list*, also include the primary and secondary geographic response areas as necessary)].

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**ARTICLE II**  
**Purpose and General Responsibilities**

A. Purpose of Agreement NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region and the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) enter into this Agreement for the following purposes:

1. To provide for the protection, health and welfare of marine mammals within the [Region] Region in accordance with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and the Endangered Species Act (hereinafter ESA).
2. To implement Title IV (Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program) of the MMPA:
  - a. to facilitate the collection and dissemination of reference data on the health of marine mammals and health trends of marine mammal populations in the wild;
  - b. to correlate the health of marine mammals and marine mammal populations in the wild with available data on physical, chemical, and biological environmental parameters; and
  - c. to detect and coordinate effective responses to unusual mortality events.
3. To authorize the take of stranded marine mammals or marine mammal parts for the primary purpose of ensuring the appropriate [rehabilitation], disposition, and utilization of stranded marine mammals or marine mammal parts under the authority of NOAA/NMFS.
4. To define the nature and extent of services that the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) will provide NOAA/NMFS [Region] under this Agreement and NOAA/NMFS responsibilities to the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]).
5. To provide for the preparation and maintenance of records containing scientific data obtained from dead and living stranded marine mammals or parts from dead stranded marine mammals.
6. To provide for the timely exchange of information for use by both parties and other network members in furthering their respective objectives under this Agreement.

**B. NMFS Responsibilities**

1. Provide the Letterholder [Agency acronym] notice of any changes to laws, regulations, policies and/or guidelines that may apply to their activities.
2. Provide guidance and assistance regarding marine mammal unusual mortality events

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including investigations, financial resources when available (Section 405 of MMPA), coordination with the Working Group on Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events and physical resources (example: NOAA laboratory assistance when available).

3. Alert the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) when NMFS has been notified that there are emerging diseases and/or zoonotic diseases within the Region.
4. Pursuant to criteria established under MMPA section 407, provide access to the National Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program database, as developed, and access to marine mammal tissues in the National Marine Mammal Tissue Bank.
5. As needed, provide specialized marine mammal stranding response and investigation training on a local, regional or national basis.
6. Pursuant to the MMPA Section 402, collect and update periodically and make available to Letterholders and other qualified scientists, existing information on
  - a. procedures and practices for rescuing and rehabilitating stranded marine mammals, including criteria used by the stranding network participants, on a species-by-species basis, for determining at what point a marine mammal undergoing rescue and rehabilitation is returnable to the wild;
  - b. procedures and practices for collecting, preserving, labeling, and transporting marine mammal tissues for physical, chemical, and biological analyses;
  - c. appropriate scientific literature on marine mammal health, disease, and rehabilitation;
  - d. compilation and analyses of strandings by region to monitor species, numbers, conditions, and causes of illness and death in stranded marine mammals;
  - e. other life history and reference level data, including marine mammal tissue analyses, that would allow comparison of the causes of illness and death in stranded marine mammals with physical, chemical, and biological environmental parameters.

**C. Joint Responsibilities** NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region and the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) will work cooperatively:

1. To implement Title IV of the MMPA.
2. To investigate the cause and impacts of Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events.
3. To determine the impact of serious injury and mortalities due to human interactions.

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4. To protect wild marine mammal populations.
5. To collect reference data on marine mammal health.
6. To collect data on the frequency and causes of strandings.
7. To interpret findings and identify health trends.

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## **ARTICLE III Dead animal response**

Reserved  
OR

- A. Authorization to take species of marine mammals covered under the MMPA for the purpose of dead animal investigation and response.

This LOA does not authorize the taking of any marine mammal species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended. Authorization to take ESA-listed species is only through MMPA/ESA permit #932-1489-01\ PRT009526 until June 30, 2004.

1. Subject to the conditions contained in this LOA, the MMPA, and its implementing regulations, the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) is authorized to take dead stranded marine mammals or parts therefrom for the protection of public health and welfare, for the collection of data on the health and health trends of wild populations, for the detection of unusual marine mammal mortality events, for research or education on the marine mammal biology and life history, or for the determination or cause of death or for the detection of human caused and natural mortality. This authorization specifically includes the following activities:
  - a. Obtaining measurements and biological samples from dead stranded marine mammals.
  - b. Disposing of dead stranded marine mammals at a sanitary landfill or other location determined to be suitable.
  - c. Taking and transporting dead stranded or floating dead marine mammals to facilities or individuals approved pursuant to 50 C.F.R. 216.22 for scientific and/or educational use. Non-diagnostic parts, tissues, cells, gametes, or cell cultures to be used for scientific research, species enhancement, or education shall be transferred only to persons or labs that have received prior written authorization from the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Administrator or that have a NOAA/NMFS MMPA/ESA scientific research permit.
  - d. Taking marine mammal parts for diagnostic use: Tissue samples, fluid specimens, parts, or cells may be sent to labs within the U. S. for diagnostic use without any additional authorizations (50 CFR 216.22).
  - e. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall report within 30 days of the stranding, the retention or transfer of any parts from any stranded marine mammal collected under this agreement to NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator, [Address], as required by 50 CFR 216.22. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym])

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must provide the institution name where specimen materials have been deposited and ensure that retained or transferred parts are marked with the field identification number from the stranded animal.

2. This does not authorize the sale or offer of sale of any marine mammal or marine mammal parts, including cells, gametes, or cell cultures, taken under the authority of this Agreement.

### **B. Letterholder Responsibilities**

1. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall respond in a timely manner to all reports of dead stranded marine mammals and cooperate with Federal, state and local government officials and employees when responding to these strandings.
2. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall, if requested, assist government officials and employees in the disposal of parts or carcasses of stranded marine mammals.
3. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall, upon responding to a marine mammal stranding, collect and provide the following information for each stranded marine mammal:
  - a. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall fill out and complete the NOAA Form 89864, OMB #0648-0178 (the Marine Mammal Stranding Report - "Level A Form). This form shall be sent to the [Region] Region Stranding Coordinator, [Address], according to the following schedule (*reserved*):
  - b. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall notify within 24 hours the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator regarding possible or confirmed human interactions, suspected unusual mortality events, out of habitat situations, mass stranding events, mass mortalities, large whale strandings, and any strandings involving endangered or threatened species. [*Reserved* {In addition NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region requests that the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) report any right whale sightings that occur or are reported as part of their normal activities. Please see Attachment B for contact information.}]
  - c. Unless an alternate agreement is made between the NOAA/NMFS [Region] and the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]), the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall fill out and complete all applicable NOAA OMB stranding forms [*reserved-schedule*].
  - d. If requested by the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator for certain stranding events (for example, strandings involving large whales, human interaction, disease outbreaks, pre-event investigations, or unusual mortality events), the Letterholder shall provide to the Regional Stranding Coordinator a complete Marine Mammal Stranding Report within 24 hours, and the Letterholder

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shall coordinate and cooperate with the Regional Stranding Coordinator to investigate strandings or mortalities.

- e. If requested by the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator, the Letterholder shall provide to the Regional Stranding Coordinator copies of any photographs and/or videotapes documenting any stranding (particularly for those strandings when human interactions are reported or suspected). Any commercial/documentary film of stranding response must include a credit, acknowledgment, or caption indicating that the stranding response was conducted under a Letter of Agreement issued by NMFS under the authority of the MMPA.
  - f. Additionally, if gear, debris, or other objects (for example, bullets) that may be evidence of human interaction are recovered from a stranded animal, the Letterholder shall collect and make such objects available to the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region or NMFS Office of Law Enforcement personnel as requested.
- 4. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall bear any and all expenses connected with the taking, collection, or other activities associated with marine mammals pursuant to this Agreement. NOAA/NMFS may be able to support specific analyses that are part of the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program.
  - 5. The Letterholder shall cooperate with other authorized members of the [Region] Region Stranding Network and the National Marine Mammal Stranding Network.
  - 6. By its nature, the handling of dead stranded animals can be a dangerous activity. Liability during stranding response of a person who is authorized to respond to a stranding pursuant to this agreement is addressed at Section 406(a) and (b) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1421e).
  - 7. If requested, the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) must coordinate with NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region concerning media contacts relating to stranding events.

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## ARTICLE IV Live strandings: First response

Reserved  
OR

- A. Authorization to take species of marine mammals covered under the MMPA for the purpose of live stranding first response (initial assessment and care at the site of stranding), beach triage, beach release, translocation and/or transportation to an authorized rehabilitation center.

This LOA does not authorize the taking of any marine mammal species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended. Authorization to take ESA-listed species is only through MMPA/ESA permit #932-1489-01\ PRT009526 until June 30, 2004.

In addition to the authority provided under previous Articles, and subject to the conditions contained in this LOA, the MMPA, and its implementing regulations, the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) is authorized to take live stranded marine mammals in a humane manner for the protection or welfare of the marine mammal as well as the purposes listed in the previous Article. This authorization specifically includes the following activities:

1. Possessing a marine mammal incidental to taking it for purposes listed in this Article. However, this authority does not include authority to sell or offer to sell a marine mammal or marine mammal part.
2. Returning live stranded marine mammals to their natural habitat and tagging such animals. Invasive tagging using other than standard methods (e.g., one-bolt roto or cattle ear tags, freeze branding) must first be authorized by NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region. Tagging under this authorization is restricted to monitoring success of marine mammals released to the wild. Any projects outside the scope of monitoring release success must be authorized by a NOAA/NMFS scientific research permit.
3. Taking measurements, blood or other diagnostic samples from live stranded marine mammals for health assessment. Any intrusive procedures, measurements or sampling, for scientific research purposes (above normal medical practices for the care of an animal) must first be approved by NOAA/NMFS Regional Stranding Coordinator and must be authorized by a NOAA/NMFS scientific research permit.
4. Performing humane euthanasia. Euthanasia shall only be performed by an attending veterinarian or by a person acting under the direct supervision of an attending veterinarian. When using controlled drugs such person shall comply with all applicable state and Federal laws and regulations and the veterinarian's Drug Enforcement Agency



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number must be on file at the NOAA/NMFS Regional office. Authorization to euthanize a threatened or endangered species must be obtained under Permit #932-1489-01.

5. Transporting live stranded marine mammals for rescue and rehabilitation to a NOAA/NMFS approved rehabilitation facility or temporary holding facility approved by NOAA/NMFS.

### **B. Letterholder Responsibilities**

1. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall respond in a timely manner to all reports of live stranded marine mammals and cooperate with Federal, state and local officials when responding to these strandings.
2. The Letterholder shall take all steps reasonably practicable under the circumstances to prevent further injury to any live stranded marine mammal or injury to any network personnel.
3. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall assist local officials in the clean up of beach areas should the animal die or be euthanized and where necropsy or specimen collection may contribute to the soiling of the site.
4. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall, upon responding to a marine mammal stranding, collect the following information for each stranded marine mammal according to the following schedule.
  - a. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall fill out and complete the NOAA Form 89864, OMB # 0648-0178 (the Marine Mammal Stranding Report - "Level A" Data). The form shall be sent to the [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator, [Address], according to the following schedule (*reserved*):
  - b. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall notify NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region within 24 hours about possible or confirmed human interactions, suspected unusual mortality events, out of habitat situations, mass stranding events, mass mortalities, all live cetacean strandings, and any strandings involving endangered or threatened species.
  - c. For all live cetacean-stranding events, the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator may request real- time reporting of strandings {within 24 hours}, necropsy and analytical reports. For live pinniped strandings, the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator may request real- time reporting in certain circumstances. Necropsy reports shall be made available to the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator if requested within a specified amount of time.
  - d. Copies of Photos and/or video documenting any stranding, and particularly those

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where human interaction is reported or suspected, must be made available to the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator if requested.

Additionally, if gear, debris or other objects that may be evidence of human interaction (i.e., bullets) are recovered from a stranded animal, the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator may request that the gear or other evidence be shipped to NOAA/NMFS specialists or turned over to NMFS Office of Law Enforcement. Any commercial/documentary film of stranding response must include a credit, acknowledgement or caption indicating that the stranding response was conducted under a Letter of Agreement issued by NMFS under the authority of the MMPA.

5. Non-diagnostic parts, tissues, cells, gametes, or cell cultures to be used for scientific research, species enhancement, or education shall be transferred only to persons or labs that have received prior written authorization from the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Administrator or that have a NOAA/NMFS MMPA/ESA scientific research permit. Taking marine mammal parts for diagnostic use: Tissue samples, fluid specimens, parts, or cells may be sent to labs in the U.S. for diagnostic use without any additional authorizations (50 CFR 216.22). The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall report within 30 days of the stranding, the retention or transfer of any parts from any stranded marine mammal collected under this agreement to NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator, [Address], as required by 50 CFR 216.22. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) must provide the institution name where specimen materials have been deposited and ensure that retained or transferred parts are marked with the field identification number from the stranded animal.
6. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall bear any and all expenses connected with the taking, collection, transport, release, or other activities associated with marine mammals pursuant to this Agreement. NOAA/NMFS may be able to support specific analyses that are a part of the NOAA/NMFS Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program.
7. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall cooperate with NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region, state, and local officials in matters relating to stranded marine mammals or their disposition and comply with NOAA/NMFS regulations (including 50 CFR 216.27) and current NOAA/NMFS Release Guidelines [Website].
8. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall be subject to the authority and direction of any designated agent or employee of NOAA/NMFS with respect to the taking of a stranded marine mammal.
9. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall cooperate with other authorized members of the [Region] Region Stranding Network and the National Marine Mammal Stranding Network.
10. By its nature, the handling of live and dead stranded animals and the care and protection

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of live stranded marine mammals is a dangerous activity. Liability during stranding response of a person who is authorized to respond to a stranding pursuant to this agreement is addressed at Section 406(a) and (b) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1421e).

11. If requested, the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) must coordinate with NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region concerning media contacts relating to stranding events.

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## ARTICLE V

### Live animal response: Rehabilitation and release

Reserved  
OR

A. Authorization to take live stranded marine mammals for rehabilitation and release.

This LOA does not authorize the taking of any marine mammal species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended. Authorization to take ESA-listed species is only through MMPA/ESA permit #932-1489-01\ PRT009526 until June 30, 2004.

In addition to the authority provided under previous Articles, and subject to the conditions contained in this LOA, the MMPA, and its implementing regulations, the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) is authorized to take live stranded marine mammals in a humane manner for rehabilitation and release. This authorization specifically includes the following activities:

1. Transferring marine mammals to another rehabilitation facility, temporary placement in a scientific research facility holding a current NOAA/NMFS scientific research permit and APHIS registration, release back to the wild, or permanent disposition to an authorized facility after consultation with and authorization by NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region.
2. If scientific research is conducted on stranded animals in a rehabilitation facility, the responsible individual must have a scientific research permit and the facility must hold an APHIS registration.
3. Making a final determination in consultation with NOAA/NMFS for release or non-release status according to applicable NOAA/NMFS guidelines, regulations and time lines indicated in 50 CFR 216.27 (Release, non-releasability, and disposition under special exception permits for rehabilitated marine mammals).
4. Returning rehabilitated stranded marine mammals to their natural habitat and tagging such animals. Invasive tagging using other than standard methods (e.g., one-bolt roto or cattle ear tags, freeze branding) must first be authorized by NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region. Tagging under this authorization is restricted to monitoring success of marine mammals released to the wild. Any projects outside the scope of monitoring release success must be authorized by a NOAA/NMFS scientific research permit.

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5. Performing humane euthanasia. Euthanasia may only be performed by the attending veterinarian or by a person acting under the direct supervision of the attending veterinarian. When using controlled drugs for euthanasia, such person shall comply with all applicable state and Federal laws and regulations and the veterinarian's Drug Enforcement Agency's license number must be on file at the NOAA/NMFS Regional Office. Authorization to euthanize a threatened or endangered species must be obtained under Permit #932-1489-01.

### **B. Letterholder Responsibilities**

1. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) should follow the current NOAA/NMFS Release Guidelines [Website], 50 CFR 216.27 and other applicable NOAA/NMFS laws and regulations. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall complete the NOAA Form 89878, OMB # 0648-0178 (the Marine Mammal Rehabilitation Disposition Report). The form shall be sent to the [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator, [Address], according to the following schedule [*reserved*]:
2. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall, in compliance with guidelines and applicable regulations, include a signed medical and behavior clearance by the rehabilitation facility's attending veterinarian and lead animal care specialist as part of a release determination. This information must be submitted to NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region following the timeline and other requirements in 50 CFR 216.27(a).
3. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall be responsible for the custody of any living marine mammal taken pursuant to this Agreement using standards for humane care and for practicing accepted medical evaluation and treatment (i.e. American Veterinary Medical Association, American Zoological Association, and International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine).
4. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall isolate marine mammals being rehabilitated from any animals in permanent captivity that are permitted for public display, scientific research, or enhancement, or from other wild or domestic animals.
5. The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall immediately report to the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator if a new or emerging pathogen is isolated that could affect human health or the health of wild marine mammal populations.
6. Upon request by the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Administrator, the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall permit the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator, other appropriate NOAA/NMFS employees, or any other appropriate persons duly designated by the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Administrator to inspect the facilities and records that pertain to rehabilitation activities.

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## **ARTICLE VI Designees**

Reserved  
OR

### **A. Authority to delegate authority and responsibilities under this Letter of Agreement.**

The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) may designate a person, organization, or institution to act on behalf of the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) as a designee in accordance with this agreement. Such an agreement requires prior written approval from NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region (Attachment A). Any person, organization or institution so designated shall be deemed an agent of the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) and is subject to all applicable provisions of this Agreement as well as applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines. Any breach of the provisions herein by a designee of the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall be deemed a breach by the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]). The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) must submit information (see requirements) and a copy of any agreement between the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) and its designee at least 30 days prior to any prospective designation, to the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator and the Regional Administrator [Addresses].

**Requirements:** The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) must provide the following information to the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Stranding Coordinator and Regional Administrator 30 days prior to any action by the designee:

1. Complete name of the person, organization, or institution.
2. Resumes or CVs of all designees and participants.
3. Justification Statement for designation.
4. For rehabilitation facilities, a facility plan including personnel, veterinary care, and other requirements stated under the applicable NOAA/NMFS Release Guidelines and regulations.
5. Oversight plan including how the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) will monitor the designee.

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## **ARTICLE VII**

### Rights of States and Local Governments

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to affect the rights or responsibilities of other Federal, state or local government officials or employees in the course of their duties with respect to taking of marine mammals in a humane manner (including euthanasia) for protection or welfare of the marine mammal, protection of public health and welfare or non-lethal removal of nuisance animals (MMPA Sec 109h).

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### Effective Date

The terms of this Agreement shall become effective upon the signature of the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) and NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region. For new applicants, the LOA will be issued for a probationary period of one year from the effective date. Subsequently, upon satisfactory performance, the LOA may be issued on a multi-year basis. Multi-year agreements will be terminated (as provided in Article IX) or will remain in effect for one year from the effective date and will be renewed automatically thereafter on a yearly basis for up to {five} years, unless NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region sends written notice to the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) that the Agreement will not be renewed or the Letterholder [Agency acronym] requests that the Agreement be terminated or not be renewed. Thereafter, the Agreement may be renewed if agreed in writing by both parties. No later than 90 days prior to the expiration date, the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) shall indicate in writing to the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Administrator that a renewal is requested and provide the necessary information.

### Terms of Review:

- 1 year for new Letterholder
- 3 years for live animal responder and rehabilitator (Article IV and V)
- 5 years for dead animal responder (Article III)

## **ARTICLE IX**

### Review or Termination

This agreement may be modified at any time by NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region upon written notification to the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]). The Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) may request modification of the Agreement in writing. This Agreement may be terminated upon thirty- (30) days written notice by the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) or by NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region. The NOAA/NMFS [Region] Region may terminate this agreement or any part

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thereof for any reason, including but not limited to violations of any applicable law, regulation, or guideline, or failure to satisfy the terms and responsibilities of this LOA. A termination of the Agreement by either party shall automatically terminate any designations by the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) to any designee under this LOA.

Except as otherwise provided for rehabilitation facilities under Article V of this agreement, the NOAA/NMFS [Region] Regional Administrator may, subject to his or her sole discretion as an alternative to terminating this agreement by written notice, provide the Letterholder notice and an opportunity to correct any deficiency under this LOA. In that case, the Letterholder ([Agency acronym]) will be notified of any deficiency and given a time period to correct any such deficiencies. The Letterholder ([Agency]) shall correct any such deficiencies within the given time period, unless the NOAA/NMFS [Region] finds that there is good cause to extend the time period. If the Letterholder fails to correct any such deficiencies within the given time period, then the Agreement may be terminated as provided in the previous paragraph of this agreement.

THIS AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO AND MADE EFFECTIVE THIS

\_\_\_\_\_ (date).

APPROVED:

NOAA/NMFS/[Region] Region

[Stranding Network Agency]

[Name], Regional Administrator

Signature



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*Reserved OR*

Attachment A: Statement of Agreement for designation of authority and responsibilities by the Letterholder to any person, organization or institution to act as agents of the Letterholder.

## AGREEMENT

I have read the conditions as stated above for participating in the  
(Letterholder's)\_\_\_\_\_ Stranding Network as an agent of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Letterholder) under its Letter of Agreement with  
NOAA/NMFS/[Region] Region and agree to abide by all applicable provisions of the Letter of  
Agreement between the NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service [Region] Region and  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Letterholder).

NOAA/NMFS

Letterholder

Designee

Signature

Title

Affiliation

Date

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{ Attachment B: NOAA/NMFS/NER Contact Information }

Event	Contact	Contact Information
Strandings Human Interactions Unusual mortalities Out of habitat or extralimital situations Ship strikes	Dana Hartley	508-495-2090 (work) 508-495-2258 (fax) 978-585-7149 (pager) <a href="mailto:Dana.Hartley@noaa.gov">Dana.Hartley@noaa.gov</a>
Right Whale Sightings	Tim Cole	508-495-2264 (work) 508-495-2393 (fax) 978-585-8473 (pager) <a href="mailto:Tim.Cole@noaa.gov">Tim.Cole@noaa.gov</a>
Entanglements	Center for Coastal Studies	Disentanglement Hotline 1-800-900-3622 VHF Channel 16

**NMFS will include contacts for the SER.**